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URBAN DISTRICT OF HOLYHEAD

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year

1964

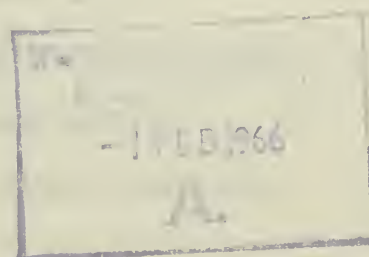
of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Incorporating the Report

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.



HOLYHEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL - 1964.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Glyn Thomas.

CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor John Lewis, J.P.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor D.R. Lewis.

Councillor D.O. Green.

Councillor Thomas Hughes, J.P.

Councillor Hugh Jones.

Councillor Richard Parry.

Councillor G.C. Williams.

Councillor John Lewis, J.P.

Councillor Hywel Jones.

Councillor D.M. Williams.

Alderman R. Roberts, M.B.E., J.P.

Councillor E.J. Jones.

Councillor Clifton Hughes.

Councillor Edward Jones.

Councillor Glyn Thomas.

Councillor Gordon Williams.

Councillor W.M. Ankers.

Councillor I.W. Jones.

Councillor W.J. Hughes.

Councillor Mrs. M. Hughes, B.E.M.

Councillor H.P. Jones, J.P.

Alderman A.I. Jones, M.B.E., J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

G.H.B. Roberts, M.A., M.B., B. Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., L.M.

Public Health Inspector and Imported Food Inspector

A. Maldwyn Jones, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Certificate in Meat and
Food Inspection, Royal Society of Health.

Additional Public Health Inspector

J.E. Jones, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., Cert, in Meat and Food Inspection
Royal Society of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Health Committee,
HOLYHEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report upon the health of your District for the year 1964. As is customary the report incorporates the Annual Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector. Statistical changes were, of course, to be expected of the current year relative to its predecessor, but these changes have not been dramatic in improvement (or deterioration) - rather have they shown a betterment trend.

Perhaps the most significant betterment is in relation to housing completion, not that that fact should precipitate any complacency. Two years ago I referred to that year as having produced the lowest number of Council Houses since 1955. The figure was only 21. That all too low completion figure has now been replaced by one (that of 62) which is the third largest for nine years. The higher rates were achieved in 1957 (201 houses) and in 1961 (73 houses). The range of annual completions are detailed by the Senior Public Health Inspector. Family rehousing does not produce, in the average instance, merely a raised standard in that family's physical well being during the ensuing one or two years, but progressively so over a much longer duration. The author of this report is in a particular position to so comment, because he has himself been carrying out the School Medical Inspections, - Annual and Periodical, - for at least 90% of your juvenile population since 1947. Perhaps a particular example is provided by the attenders of the Llanfawr Primary School whose catchment area is now mostly from the Morawelon Estate as compared with the former, now defunct, side street tributaries of London Road, amongst whom such evidence of uncleanness (due to largely lack of facilities) as lice and dirty clothing, were almost common-place.

However the Ministerial Order Confirmation of four Clearance Areas on the current year should not merely remove derelict houses but in doing so provide sites for their replacement, without delay. It is to be hoped that the building programme in the Llanfain - Llaingoch area will be immediately paralleled by the Local Education Authority replacing what is not only an antiquated primary school but one that is grossly overcrowded. Adverse previous reports have been submitted by the Writer to the appropriate quarter.

According to the Registrar General's mid year estimate your population has increased by as much as 230 in the last twelve months, and in so doing, raising it to the highest figure in the last ten years. In that period-span the annual increase has been on an average of about 50, with the exception of 1960 which reflected a single year's fall. This progressive increase over a ten year period with the current dramatic acceleration has, of course, its future planning significance.

The current Corrected Birth Rate of 22.2 is very slightly lower (as 22.2 is to 22.7.) yet is for the eighth year in succession, higher than the overall County Rate even though that Rate has itself increased after the former years' fall. This current Holyhead rate compares with 18.4 produced by England and Wales.

The current Corrected Death Rate of 12.93 is the lowest for your Urban District since, and including 1960. Comparisons of that Rate with those produced by Anglesey, as a whole, and by England and Wales are best appreciated in tabular form.

	<u>Holyhead</u>	<u>Anglesey</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
1960	13.39	12.4	11.5
1961	13.5	12.5	12.0
1962	13.8	12.76	11.9
1963	14.3	13.2	12.2
1964	12.93	12.2	11.3

The actual death occurrences were 157, with a greater number of females than males, in contrast to the preceding year. Coronary heart disease accounted for only 12 deaths as compared with the earlier 20 which was itself a lower figure after a three year progressive annual increase that corresponded with a National trend. Tuberculosis accounted for only two deaths (formerly one) - Lung Cancer for 5 as compared with 8.

The Rateable Value increased by nearly £5,000 to £224,745 and the Penny Rate productivity from £860 to £885.

Of Notifiable Infectious Diseases only one confirmed case of Dysentery was notified as compared with 34. A periodic epidemic of Measles produced 550 cases and whooping cough occurred 34 times whereas scarlet fever happened only twice.

Cases of Tuberculosis increased from 8 to 10 of which, one was non-respiratory, one was meningitic, and of which 4 of the respiratory form were under the age of 30.

Protective measures against the commoner Infectious Diseases are provided by the Local General Medical Practitioners and by the Infant Welfare Clinics and it is pleasant to compare the number of births in the District with the response to the availability of these measures.

Although it is gratifying to note from the table of the Senior Public Health Inspector that the percentage of diseased meat imported from Eire has fallen from 89.2 to 60.8 yet that figure is still an appreciable one. The number of cattle killed and inspected has more than doubled therefore the overall amount of diseased meat has not decreased.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their interest and support, and the Clerk and Senior Public Health Inspector for their willing co-operation and help at all times.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. B. ROBERTS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	850
Population (Registrar General's mid year 1964 estimate)	10,560
Rateable Value	£229,859
Product of the Penny Rate	£885.17.4.
Number of Rateable Premises:	
a) Dwelling houses (including Council Houses)	3,415
b) All other (including business premises)	750
Total of a) & b)	4,165

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births (actual occurrences)

	<u>1963</u>			<u>1964</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	114	113	227	109	111	220
Illegitimate	6	2	8	6	8	14
	<u>120</u>	<u>115</u>	<u>235</u>	<u>115</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>234</u>

The Birth Comparability Factor is 1.09.

Birth Rates (total)

The Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 population = 22.2

The Birth Rate for Anglesey is 19.2; England and Wales 18.4

Stillbirths

	<u>1963</u>			<u>1964</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	3	2	5	4	2	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>

The Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births (live and Still) = 25.0.

The Rate for 1963 was 20.8. The Stillbirth rate for Anglesey = 17.1.

England and Wales = 16. The Stillbirth rate per 1,000 population for Anglesey was 0.34.; England and Wales 0.31.

Deaths (total)

	<u>1963</u>			<u>1964</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>81</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>157</u>

The Death Comparability factor is 1.01.

The Crude Death Rate for Anglesey was 12.8; England and Wales 11.3.

The Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population = 12.93; Anglesey 12.2

Maternal Deaths

One.

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><u>1</u></u>	<u><u>3</u></u>	<u><u>4</u></u>

The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births = 17.1.
The rate for 1963 was 17.0. The infant mortality rate for Anglesey was 24.2; England and Wales was 20.

Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks of Age.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><u>1</u></u>	<u><u>3</u></u>	<u><u>4</u></u>

TABLE SHOWING CAUSES OF DEATH (ALL AGES).

CAUSE	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	2
Measles	1	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	5	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	6
Diabetes	-	2
Vascular lesions of the Nervous System	12	19
Coronary Disease, Angina	5	7
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	7
Other Heart Disease	4	2
Other Circulatory Disease	6	2
Pneumonia	3	2
Bronchitis	4	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	-	1
Other Defined and Ill defined Diseases	3	10
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1
All Other Accidents	1	2
TOTAL	58	99

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
Notifiable Diseases (excluding tuberculosis)

DISEASES	TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES
Measles	658
Whooping Cough	34
Scarlet Fever	2
Dysentery	1

TUBERCULOSIS

SEX	AGE	RESPIRATORY OR NON-RESPIRATORY
M	18	Respiratory
M	23	Respiratory
M	23	Non-respiratory
F	29	Respiratory
M	29	Respiratory
M	51	Respiratory
M	53	Respiratory
F	54	Respiratory
M	80	Respiratory

There was also one notification of Tuberculosis Meninges (12 Male).

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

These services are provided by the County Council and by General Practitioners in the District. The following figures are quoted by courtesy of the County Medical Officer.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

A total of 71 persons were vaccinated for the first time during the year, and 24 were re-vaccinated.

VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

B.C.G. vaccination is carried out by the Chest Physician in collaboration with the County Medical Officer and his staff. The scheme provides for the vaccination of new-born infants into tuberculous households and the tuberculin negative contacts of known cases.

DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

A total number of 224 persons were immunised for the first time against diphtheria during the year, and 174 against whooping cough. 183 persons were vaccinated against Tetanus during the year.

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SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1964NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

It was not necessary during the year to make application for a Court Order under Section 47 of the Act for the removal to other accommodation of any person physically incapacitated and living without proper care and attention in insanitary conditions.

By arrangement with the Caernarvonshire and Anglesey Hospital Management Committee the Mortuary at the Stanley Sailors' Hospital is available on a fee paying basis for the reception of dead bodies and it was used six times at the Council's expense at a cost of £5. 3. 0d.

An unidentified newly born female infant found on Penrhos Beach was buried on the 26th March at Maeshyfryd Cemetery in accordance with the provisions of section 50 of the Act after completion of the Coroner's Inquest. This burial was undertaken by arrangement with the Valley R.D.C. who bore the cost amounting to £2. 8. 0d.

CAMPING AND CARAVAN SITES

Camping and caravanning are not a problem in the Urban District but there is a tendency for vehicles to be illicitly parked overnight on waste land at the Porthyfelin end of the Promenade and three such vehicles were moved on as also were two caravans of itinerant dealers at the Moulton Street site.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are four female conveniences and four male conveniences and two urinals which are cleansed by a part-time female cleaner and a full-time male cleaner. The strategic siting of the Swift Square and Victoria Terrace Conveniences makes it a matter of speculation as to how necessary are the open air urinals at Victoria Road and Boston Arms. This type of convenience is a relic of the past and is particularly liable to mis-use as it has no water closet accommodation and the one at Boston Arms hidden away adjacent to a derelict area of demolished property is most repulsive in its decay.

The crude and inadequate sanitary conveniences at the Park have been annually reported upon since 1953 and improvements were agreed upon at one time but the project did not receive loan sanction.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND PEST INFESTATION

A summary is submitted of action taken :-

<u>Disease or Infestation</u>	<u>Council Houses</u>	<u>Private Houses</u>	<u>Treatments</u>	<u>Visits</u>
Tuberculosis	1	1	2	4
Earwigs	1	-	1	2
Fleas	1	6	7	14
Ants	15	20	36	72
Cockroaches	2	3	5	10

Surveillance was exercised over three contacts of cases of Typhoid Fever, Salmonella Food Poisoning and Sonnei Dysentery notified in other parts of the country.

As a result of the sudden death of a local resident and following on the pathological report and acting on the instructions of the Medical Officer of Health faecal specimens were obtained from nineteen contacts and no pathogenic organisms were found in any of the specimens on laboratory examination.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The Council's Engineer and Surveyor is responsible for refuse collection and disposal which is by controlled tipping at Cae Glas which at the end of the year had served as a site for five full years.

The Refuse Collection Team is composed of loader/driver and four men and the Refuse Tip labour force consists of one attendant with assistance as considered necessary.

At the end of the year the number of houses serviced each week for night soil collection was 13 as compared with 36 the previous year. This reduction was due to the displacement of families in the Llainfain Clearance Area.

The income from salvage sales was £256. 3. 10d for 32 tons 7 cwts. 2 qrs. of baled waste paper forming trade refuse collected from the business premises.

During the year 369 Dreadnought 2cu. ft. capacity bins were bought at a cost of £599. 1. 8d and it was possible due to the stock held in reserve to issue to householders a bin on demand when the old one was reported to be worn out.

HOUSING

A massive impact, the biggest ever attempted in a single year, was made on the slum clearance problem with the making of Compulsory Purchase Orders respecting Clearance Areas at Cross Street, Millbank, Millbank Terrace and Hedsor Street involving a total of 132 houses. These Orders were all confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government with the exclusion of only one house as being not unfit and a directive that well-maintained payments be made in 39 cases.

Application for Discretionary Improvement Grants and for Standard Improvement Grants under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, were received, and Standard Improvements were completed at 20 houses and Discretionary Improvements at 23 houses.

Housing action taken, involving 849 visits, is summarised in the Ministry's prescribed form :-

<u>Clearance Areas</u>	<u>Houses Closed</u>	<u>Houses Demolished</u>	<u>Displacements</u>	
			<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
Houses unfit for human habitation		9	90	33
<u>Not in Clearance Areas</u>				
Houses unfit for human habitation	3	1	2	1
<u>Repair of unfit houses</u>		<u>Houses Repaired</u>		
Informal action		16		

OVERCROWDING

No reliable statistical data is available respecting the degree and extent of statutory overcrowding in terms of the Housing Act, 1957, and suitable action is taken when cases are found.

PROVISION OF HOUSING ACCOMMODATION

The position is summarised as follows :-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>3 Bedrooms</u>		<u>2 Bedrooms</u>		<u>1 Bedroom</u>	
	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>
Council	18	28	22	34	3	-
Private Enterprise	3	12	1	14	-	-

The rate of completion of Council Houses during the last ten years is as follows :-

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>
Council Houses	42	29	201	24	48	30	73	21	43	62

PROVISION OF GARAGES

The position is summarised as follows :-

<u>Estate</u>	<u>Number</u>
Delfryn	3
Ffordd Wynfa	2
Garden Place	6
Marchog	7
Porthyfelin	2
Maes yr Ysgol	27
Lon Newydd	8
Tanyrefail	4

HOUSING ESTATES

The Chief Financial Officer summarises the financial position of the Estates at the end of the year as follows :-

<u>No. of Dwellings</u>	<u>Tenants in Arrear</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Type of Accommodation</u>	<u>Total Weekly Rental</u>	<u>Amount in Arrear</u>	<u>%</u>
50	8	16	Temporary Houses	£84. 18. 4d	£12. 17. 2d	14
168	32	19	Pre-War Houses	£294. 10. 9d	£140. 3. 7d	48
850	106	12	Post-War Houses	£2023. 1. 9d	£291. 15. 10d	14
1068	146	14		£2402. 10. 10d	£444. 16. 7d	18

The total number of new applications registered during the year from residents within the urban area was 103 and 102 tenancies were allocated including 36 for clearance area displacements.

Applicants for Council Houses and for transfers on the Housing Estates are visited in their homes as found necessary in order to form an opinion of the conditions at the premises and some 1,272 interviews took place in this connection. Each Council House as it becomes vacant on change of tenancy is inspected and 72 inspections were made for this purpose.

Towards the end of the year the Housing Applications Register was revised and the applications as at 31st December may be summarised as follows :-

<u>Families</u>	<u>Sub-Tenants</u>	<u>Tenants</u>	<u>Total</u>
1 person units	6	18	24
2 -do-	4	23	27
3 -do-	7	12	19
4 -do-	4	15	19
5 -do-	3	11	14
6 -do-	1	7	8
7 -do-	-	2	2
8 -do-	-	2	2
12 -do-	-	1	1
	25	91	116

The above analysis does not contain applications from persons resident outside the urban area and does not include the 130 families in clearance areas.

On the 5th May the 1,000th Council House at 42, Lon Newydd was opened by Mr. Idris Davey, the Assistant Secretary at the Welsh Office of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and this was open to inspection by the public for two days during which time invited representatives and officials of Local Authorities inspected the premises.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The number of premises affected by choked or defective drains or sewers was 243 and in 107 cases the work undertaken was re-chargeable as private work. This work involved 472 visits in connection with drainage and sewerage inspection and maintenance.

One house having cesspool drainage facilities was connected to the South Stack Road Housing Estate sewers and at the end of the year there were still four houses with water closets not connected to the West Holyhead Joint Sewerage Scheme completed in 1961.

The improvement scheme approved in 1963 for the abolition of the five pail closets at Brighton Terrace and the connection of the houses to the West Holyhead Joint Sewer had not been commenced at the end of the year.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The work summarised below involved 34 visits to the premises.

	<u>Renewed or Repaired</u>
W.C. cisterns	1
W.C. pans	7
W.C. pan joints	1
W.C. structures	-

FACTORIES

The position at the end of the year was as shown in the prescribed form reproduced below, and some 105 visits were made to 32 premises.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of	
		Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	43	86	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	6	19	-
TOTAL :	50	105	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	6	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
TOTAL :	8	6	-	-

OUTWORKERS' LIST - SECTIONS 133 and 134 - FACTORIES ACT, 1961

No. of Outworkers employed in making, altering, etc. - Wearing apparel : 1

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act came into force on the 1st May, 1964 and the Report for the eight months ending 31st December, 1964 is appended in the form prescribed by the Ministry of Labour :-

Registrations and General Inspections

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>No. of premises registered</u>	<u>No. of premises at end of year</u>	<u>No. of premises inspected</u>
Offices	21	21	19
Shops	79	78	55
Wholesale shops, warehouses	2	2	2
Catering Establishments	6	6	1
Fuel Storage Depots	1	1	-
<u>TOTALS</u>	109	108	77

Analysis of Persons Employed

<u>Class of workplace</u>	<u>Number of persons employed</u>
Offices	96
Shops	352
Wholesale departments, warehouses	24
Catering Establishments	42
Canteens	2
Fuel Storage Depots	5
<u>TOTAL</u>	521
Total Males	183
Total Females	338

The Register was incomplete at the end of the year due to the lack of voluntary registration despite the national publicity advertising the registration procedure which secured perhaps 29% of the current registrations. In order to secure the above registration of 109 premises it was necessary to make 99 visits.

RODENT CONTROL

The work undertaken is summarised on the form prescribed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

	<u>Type of Property</u> <u>Non-Agricultural</u>			Total of Cols. 1, 2 and 3.	Agri.
	Local Auth.	Dwelling Houses	All Other		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
No. of properties in Local Authority's District	9	3415	734	4158	7
No. of properties inspected on notification	1	199	39	239	-
No. of properties found infested					
Common Rat - Minor	-	60	17	77	-
House Mouse - Minor	-	80	13	93	-
No. of properties otherwise inspected	9	75	-	84	-
No. of inspections and re-inspections	37	501	105	643	-
No. of infested properties treated by Local Authority	-	140	28	168	-
No. of treatments and re-treatments	-	154	34	188	-
No. of properties proofed	-	7	5	12	-

The town's sewerage system was kept under constant observation to reduce the resident rat population and infested sections of the system were treated by manhole baiting.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Smoke pollution of the atmosphere is not the public health problem that it is in the industrial areas and the annoyance caused by the boiler plant of the Holyhead Laundry which had been the source of intermittent nuisance for some years ceased in January on closure of the Laundry for business reasons.

Thirteen random smoke observations were made on six ships in the Harbour and it was necessary to report one offending ship to the Marine Manager of British Railways as the provisions of the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) (Vessels) Regulations, 1958, which prohibit the emission of black smoke for more than three minutes in the aggregate in any period of thirty minutes were contravened.

FOOD PREMISES

The number of food premises in the area may be classified in the following general categories :-

Meat	-	13	Fried Fish and Chips	-	6	Wet Fish	-	2
Bakehouses	-	7	Licensed Premises	-	24	Greengrocery	-	6
Cafes and Restaurants	-	14	Sweets and Tobacco	-	19	Grocery and Provisions	-	41

The following number of premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :-

Ice Cream Hot Mix Method	-	1
Ice Cream Wrapped Pre-packed Retailers	-	48
Sausage Preparation	-	11

Unsound food was examined at 18 premises and 48 visits were made for this purpose, and 519 visits were made to 115 premises for observation purposes, and to advise on compliance with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

One provision store was converted into a self-service establishment and another was altered and better equipped and the improvements at yet another included the installation of a wash-hand-basin and hot water on tap. A new self-service store was also opened and a butcher's shop and confectioner's closed down.

It is also not unusual during the summer to receive complaints from visitors about cafes and two such complaints vaguely suggesting practices or conditions prejudicial to public health were investigated but it was found impossible to form any conclusive opinion in the matter due to the conflict of evidence.

Of a different nature is the case of meat bought on one day alleged to be smelling on the following day when being prepared for consumption which brought the rejoinder from the vendor that perhaps the meat wouldn't go bad if the purchaser paid off her debts.

One can understand the concern which is demonstrated when canned corned beef is found to be superficially affected with lacquer contamination from the inside of the tin but the advice in these cases to trim the contents is hardly ever acceptable to the aggrieved purchaser. It was considered prudent however to submit a tin of grapefruit segments for laboratory examination and the repulsive white spots in the fruit were confirmed to be harmless crystalline deposits but more disquieting was the finding of a thin flat stone about one inch in length in a tin of butter beans. This foreign body was so obvious that it was remarkable that it had not been eliminated when the beans were passed through a pneumatic separator and then subjected to a further examination on a conveyor belt followed by washing techniques and further inspections to detect metal bodies. The stone must have been picked with the beans which are delivered to the factory in bags. It need hardly be said that the vendor in these cases is always ready to re-imburse the customer as the matter is entirely outside his control.

Arising out of the Aberdeen typhoid epidemic the Ministry of Health recommended on the 2nd June that six pound tins of canned corned beef bearing certain code numbers should be withdrawn from sale as a precautionary measure and seventeen such tins were located at four shops and withdrawn from sale on the 4th June and 103 visits were made to food premises for this purpose. The suspected tins were later collected by the importer in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry. It is perhaps not out of place to briefly record the epidemic in the words of Dr. Ian A.G. Macquoen, Medical Officer for Aberdeen :-

"In May and June, 1964 Aberdeen and districts adjacent experienced a very large typhoid epidemic with the total number of cases being not less than 469 and not more than 507. It is clear that 68% of the 63 cases admitted to hospital up to the 24th May recollected eating sliced corned beef but that in patients admitted after the 25th May the association was no longer with corned beef but with the purchase of miscellaneous cold meats stored in an uncooled display case exposed to sunshine.

It might be possible to deduce from this alone that the outbreak originated in a tin of corned beef sold in slices, that other cold meats became contaminated by the use of the same slicer and that multiplication of organisms occurred in these cold meats stored in an uncooled display case exposed to sunshine. To outline the method in more detail a six pound tin of corned beef was contaminated in South America by *Salmonella typhi* presumably through the sealing being defective and through the tin being cooled in unchlorinated river water which received the untreated sewage of 600,000 people; the tin was sold sliced on 8th or 9th May in an Aberdeen super-market and individuals who ate the beef had a short incubation period and a common initial symptom of diarrhoea and profuse excretion of *S. typhi*. Other cold meats cut with the same slicing machine became lightly infected but were in some cases stored in an uncooled display window which acted as an incubator".

Thirteen premises were found to be affected by drainage or sewerage trouble and attention was given to nine mouse infestations, six rat infestations and two ant infestations.

ICE CREAM CONTROL

In the tables below details are given of the results of testing 184 samples of ice cream submitted to the Public Health Laboratory during the period January to December. There was one local manufacturer using the Hot Mix Method and there were forty eight non-manufacturing retailers supplied by four wholesale manufacturers operating on a national, or regional basis who retailed wrapped pre-packed ice cream only.

Manufacturing-retailers

One Dealer

<u>Samples</u>	<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>
14	92.8%	-	7.2%	-

Manufacturing Wholesalers

Four Dealers

48 Retailers

<u>Samples</u>	<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>
143	77%	19.5%	3%	.5%

The Public Health Laboratory Service recommends that owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of ice cream, it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results of any single sample. It is suggested that 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1, 80% into Grade 1 or 2, and not more than 20% into Grade 3, and none into Grade 4.

Itinerant Retailers

Three itinerant retailers operating from premises outside the urban area were observed within the district from time to time and due to the erratic nature of their movements it was only possible to obtain 7 samples of ice cream and 1 sample of soft ice cream which were all classed in Grade 1.

Soft Ice Cream

There has been an improvement in the commodity retailed by the one itinerant retailer of soft ice cream whose product was below the accepted standard when the business was established within the area in 1963. The 19 samples obtained from this retailer in 1964 gave the following results :-

<u>Samples</u>	<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>
19	13	1	1	4

The investigation into the unsatisfactory results commenced in 1963 were completed in March, 1964 when a technical expert of the national distributor concerned working in conjunction with the Public Health Department was able to demonstrate and rectify the faulty equipment sterilisation technique which was responsible for the unsatisfactory results. The subsequent samples were all satisfactory.

MILK CONTROL

On the 1st October, 1964, the description Tuberculin Tested Milk was replaced by the term Untreated and during the year a total of 62 samples were tested and all the samples obtained from 3 producer/retailers were satisfactory and of the 29 samples obtained from the other 3 producer/retailers 9 failed to satisfy the prescribed test under The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960, and these failures were reported to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for their attention. In June one of the 6 producer/retailers discontinued retailing milk as the result of professional advice on the animal health of the herd.

The raw milk retailed in the town was also submitted three times to the biological test for tubercle bacilli and brucella infection and all 16 samples were reported to be free of infection.

The increasing use of penicillin to combat mastitis has led to the introduction of the Anti-biotic Test as a routine safeguard against the consumption of milk containing traces of the drug which might be prejudicial to the consumer. The milk was sampled for this purpose twice during the year and all 10 samples were reported as satisfactory.

FOOD INSPECTIONOther Unsound Food

Meat	2 cwts.	2 qrs.	$\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	(74 tins).
Fruit	1 cwt.	0 qrs.	$2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	(96 tins).
Vegetables	1 cwt.	0 qrs.	$2\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	(118 tins).
Fish			$12\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	(20 tins).
Beverages			1 lb.	(2 tins).
Cream			$12\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	(18 tins).
	1 gal.			(1 tin).
Milk	3 gals.	2 qrts.	1 pint	(15 tins).

Fruit	2 cwts.	2 qrs.	1 stone	6 lbs.	Decomposition
Mushrooms		2 qrs.		7 lbs.	-do-
Watercress			1 stone	4 lbs.	-do-
Fish	1 cwt.	2 qrs.		1 lb.	-do-
Fish Cakes				10 lbs.	-do-
Beetroot		2 qrs.		7 lbs.	-do-
Turkey			1 stone		-do-
Bacon			1 stone	$11\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	-do-
Cauliflowers	31 dozen				-do-
Lettuces	$25\frac{1}{2}$ dozen				
Potatoes	6 tons	18 cwts.			Blight
Home Killed Beef			1 stone	6 lbs.	Bone Taint
Rye Bread				$1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Mouldy
Cheese				3 lbs.	Mouldy

Licensed Slaughtermen

There were four persons holding licences under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958, and of this number two hold the licences purely for emergency slaughter in the course of their employment with the British Transport Commission. One licence was issued for the year licensing the holder to slaughter under the supervision of a fully licensed slaughterman.

Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963

Meat Inspection charges were levied as follows :-

952 cattle @ 2/6d	-	£119.	0.	0d
194 sheep @ 6d	-	£4.	17.	0d
		£123.	17.	0d

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

EX. REPUBLIC OF IRELAND	CATTLE	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS
Number killed	952	-	-	194	-
Number inspected	952	-	-	194	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	576	-	-	3	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	60.8%	-	-	1.5%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

WEIGHTS OF UNFIT MEAT

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>CATTLE</u>	<u>SHEEP</u>	<u>PIGS</u>
Pyæmia	525		
Fever	450		
Actinomycosis	25		
Pneumonia	30		
Pericarditis	10		
Abscesses	80		
Cirrhosis	7,605		
Hydatid Cysts	270		
Parasites	-	8	
Injuries	1,105		
	10,100 lbs.	8 lbs.	0 lbs.

Total weight for the year	-	1963	:	3 tons	6 cwt.	2 qrs.	1 stone
		1964	:	4 tons	10 cwt.	1 qr.	0 stone

94 visits were made to the Port Slaughterhouse for meat inspection purposes.

Amount of Shipping Entering the District

<u>Ships</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Net. Reg. Tons</u>
From Foreign Ports	18	4451
Coastwise	1179	1505753
Fishing Vessels	13	-

Principal Ports from which ships arrive

Cargo Vessels	:	Dublin, North Wall.
Passenger Vessels	:	Dun Laoghaire.

Character of Shipping and Trade

<u>Passenger Traffic</u>	<u>No. of Passengers</u>	
	<u>Inwards</u>	<u>Outwards</u>
Cargo Service	398	233
Mail Service	412634	398259

Passenger Mail Cargo Traffic

	<u>To Dun Laoghaire</u>				<u>From Dun Laoghaire</u>			
	<u>1963</u>		<u>1964</u>		<u>1963</u>		<u>1964</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Tons</u>
Mail Bags	131,521	1644	135,959	1,699	68,691	859	91,121	1,139
Post Bags	337,192	8430	361,036	9,026	136,884	3422	145,488	3,637
News Parcels	168,797	2268	177,795	2,331	10,876	179	15,382	208
Motor Cars	3,071	2750	3,703	3,298	3,274	2874	3,761	3,280

NOTE This total tonnage is included in the Cargo Traffic Analysis under the heading of Other Commodities.

Cargo Traffic

<u>Livestock</u>	<u>Horses</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Assess</u>	<u>Dogs</u>	<u>Tons</u>
Export	1037	-	-	-	-	377	674
Import	1733	164737	5627	-	290	2262	70857

NOTE This total tonnage is included in the Cargo Traffic Analysis under the heading of Other Commodities.

Cargo Traffic AnalysisTonnages divided into Commodities

<u>Commodities</u>	<u>Imported Tons</u>		<u>Exported Tons</u>	
	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>
Coal, Coke and Patent Fuel	-	-	10,568	11,130
Building & Road Making Materials	-	-	3,371	2,502
Timber	118	145	-	-
Machinery	-	-	3,547	5,506
Vehicles & Parts	-	-	11,783	15,964
Iron and Steel	208	519	17,312	20,584
Tinplate	-	-	1,856	2,521
Oil & Spirit (Mineral & Motor)	-	-	8,337	8,445
Woollen Goods	-	-	1,147	1,347
Raw Wool	356	171	-	-
Other Textiles	-	-	1,874	2,721
Chemicals, Chemical Fertilisers	49	40	18,328	20,040
Fish	1610	1313	-	-
Fruit and Vegetables	868	246	-	-
Grain, Flour & Milling Offals	-	-	917	956
Other Food and Provisions	58983	59308	-	-
Other Commodities	105069	115249	52,963	48,148
	<u>167261</u>	<u>176991</u>	<u>132,003</u>	<u>139,864</u>

Grand Totals

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>
Imported Tonnage	124,544	152,121	161,931	167,261	176,991
Exported Tonnage	<u>95,158</u>	<u>96,433</u>	<u>120,688</u>	<u>132,003</u>	<u>139,864</u>
	<u>219,702</u>	<u>248,554</u>	<u>282,619</u>	<u>299,264</u>	<u>316,855</u>

NOTE

Included in the above analysis under the heading Exported Tons is bunker coal and bunker oil for fuelling the British Transport Commission's Vessels.

A complete check was exercised on all landings of imported food from the Republic of Ireland. This work involves alternate week-end duty by the Public Health Inspectors and the following comparative table indicates the scope of this routine responsibility :-

<u>No. of Ships' Minifests Scrutinised</u>		<u>No. of Notifications to receiving Local Authorities</u>
1960	374	2,274
1961	422	3,060
1962	514	2,950
1963	570	3,173
1964	590	3,559

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